



August 2026

Our hallways are once again full of children's joy, energy, and laughter! Whether you are a new family or a returning family, we are so blessed that you are sharing your child with us this year, and we welcome you. We've been delighted to see you at our Meet & Greet this week!

Each month, we will send you a school newsletter to keep you updated on a variety of topics such as special events, news about the preschool community, reminders, and information that may be of interest to you about parenting or child development. Please let us know if you would like to see something highlighted in a future edition of the school's newsletter.

♥ Welcome to
Preschool!

Preschool Happenings

Monday, August 10: First Day of Preschool Classes

Sunday, August 23: Preschool Staff and Family Blessing at St. Luke Lutheran Church (See pg. 2)

September 1: Tuition due for private pay families. A \$15.00 late fee will be assessed for payments received after the 5th of each month.

Wednesday, September 2: First Day for Children's Worship

Monday, September 7: Labor Day--No School

Monday, September 14 & Tuesday, September 15: First Days for Music Classes

Tuesday, September 15: Preschool Committee Meeting--7:00 pm Over Zoom

We Need Your Help At Drop Off and Pick Up Time!

Drop offs and pick ups will take place through the preschool main front gate for all children. The use of one entrance allows us to be vigilant about who is in the building. We ask you to join us in helping to maintain the security of the school by closing the front gate and door behind you when you enter and leave. We ask that KinderPrep families close the courtyard gate behind them when exiting the courtyard after drop off. All families will use the gate/door code to gain entrance and we ask that you safeguard the code by sharing it only with those who are involved with the drop off and pick up of your child.

Drop off and pick up times will smooth out, once we all get the routine down! We value your help with on time drop off and pick up, as it helps us maintain our ratios and vigilantly supervise the children in our care. Here are the details:

- If your child's day begins at 9:00, please plan to arrive during our drop off window between 8:50 and 9:00. Consistent on time arrival allows children to transition into the program successfully and teachers to begin the day on time.
- It is important that your child be picked up on time when the day ends--whether that is 12:00, 12:45, 3:00, or 5:30. On time pick ups allow us to maintain our required ratios and be available for all the children in our care.
- If you are running late, or need to pick your child up early (for an appointment, for example), please let us know, so we can be prepared.

We thank you for partnering with us to make this a great school year!

PRESCHOOL PRAYER

Dear Jesus,
Please show me how to spend this day
Sharing your LOVE in every way
Help me to be kind to everyone
To play and laugh and have lots of fun
Shining your light and giving your grace
Sharing your JOY with a smile on my face!



You are warmly invited!

St. Luke Preschool Staff and Family Blessing

Sunday, August 23, 2026

at either worship service:

8:15 am or 10:30 am

**Preschool students, families, staff, and
committee members**

will be invited forward to receive a blessing
and a prayer for the school year.

We would love for you to join us!

Parking Lot Safety

Please be sure to keep your speed down and park safely in our parking lot. We understand that drop off and pick up times can cause the parking lot to become busy, and we want to make sure no accidents take place.

Please do not leave children, sleeping babies, or any valuables in your car, as school parking lots are often targeted by thieves.

Please park in a designated parking space and not in the marked red fire lane (not even for a few minutes).

For health reasons, our accrediting agency requires that vehicles not idle or be left running in the preschool parking lot.

If you need assistance with the PM Extended Care portion of the day (3:00-5:30), or need to speak with a PM teacher, please call the PM cell phone at 505-523-4978.



St. Luke T-Shirts Are Coming!

A complementary St. Luke t-shirt will soon be ordered for your child. T-shirts will feature our butterfly logo and can be worn on special "spirit days" or any day!

We will soon be asking you to select your child's t-shirt size and we will take care of the ordering for you.



Your Child's Transition

We always expect to see a few tears the first several days of school. If your child seems to be having a rough time with the transition of starting a new class or to school for the first time, here are some ideas that may help:

1. Establish a consistent good-bye ritual. Children find comfort in the predictable, so each time you leave your child, make it the same. For example, three kisses, an "I love you" and one hug. Establish a ritual that feels right for your family and stick to it.
2. Share stories about your first days of preschool or elementary school. Tell your child about how you felt and show him or her photos of when you were his or her age.
3. Select a special comfort item from home, such as a favorite stuffy, family photo, or loved book, for your child to bring to school for the purpose of easing the transition.
4. Make a book at home that tells the story of your child coming to school. Include photos of your child with his or her backpack, in front of the school, at pick up time, etc. Be sure to add wording about your child's day.
5. Read books about coming to school and saying goodbye.



Some suggestions are:

- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Lola Goes to School* by Anna McQuinn
- *Will I Have a Friend?* by Miriam Cohen
- *Hello Preschool* by Priscilla Burris
- *Take a Kiss to School* by Angela McAllister
- *It's Time for Preschool* by Esme Raj Codell
- *David Goes to School* by David Shannon



Separation is a process, so expect that your child (or yourself) may need some time to feel comfortable. Please let us know how we can help!

Snack and Lunch Times

Preschool families are required to sign up to bring morning snack approximately once a month (twice a month in our smaller classes). Teachers create snack menus in accordance with CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) guidelines and our no nut policy. Please be sure to sign up for a day that your child attends. If all of the days are taken, please talk with your child's teachers about providing a back-up snack item. We appreciate your help with providing a nutritious and yummy snack for the children to share together in the morning.

While eating together, children have the opportunity to engage in conversations, strengthen language skills, build on friendships, problem solve, try new foods, and more!



If your child stays for lunch, please be sure to take his or her lunchbox home each day for a thorough cleaning and sanitizing.

In addition, we ask that you take your child's water bottle home each day for a thorough cleaning and sanitizing. Together, we can minimize illness at the preschool.

Be sure to **label** all lunchboxes and water bottles with your child's name and keep in mind that we are **only** allowed to serve **water** (no soda, juice, sports drinks, etc.) from water bottles.

Illness Policy

Thank you for your help with the health and wellness of the preschool community.

Together we make a difference!

- **Send a Brightwheel message or an email to both Lori and Jane any time your child will be absent, even if he or she is not sick, as we are required to track absences.**

Lori – stlukesc@thuntek.net

Jane – stlukepreschool1956@gmail.com

- In order to return to the preschool following illness, children (and staff) must be: **fever free (without medication), diarrhea free, and vomiting free for 24 hours, and able to participate in the school day successfully with respect to energy level and engagement. Children with excessive amounts of mucus and coughing should remain at home to help minimize illness at the preschool.**

If your child becomes ill while at school, you will be called to pick him or her up within 30 minutes of receiving the call. Please be sure to keep your local contact information updated with us. If we are unable to get ahold of a parent, we will continue calling down the list of emergency contacts until we reach someone. More detailed information about illness, health, and safety can be found in the Family Handbook starting on page 20.

Welcome to Children's Worship!

Preschool classes meet on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the school year for Children's Worship. During this time, we sing, pray, and experience age appropriate Bible stories together. Parents and other family members are welcome to join us for Worship in the sanctuary of the church! Times are as follows:

KinderPrep (Kathy & Sydney)--9:30 am on Thursdays only

Older Multi-Age (JoEllen & Samantha) and Intermediate Multi-Age (Maria & Moriah)--10:45 am

Younger Multi-Age Monarchs (Jessica & Jena) and Younger Multi-Age Swallowtails (Laura & Alliyah) – 11:15 am

Here is our September Worship schedule:

- Wednesday, September 2 and Thursday, September 10: Welcome to Worship
- Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 24: Creation (Genesis 1:1--2:3)

For September, we will be exploring a variety of bibles for babies, children, teens, and adults, including ***Baby's First Bible*** by Standard Publishing, the ***Early Reader's Bible*** by ZonderKidz Publishing, the ***Spark Story Bible*** by UBS Fortress, and the ***Faith Alive Student Bible*** by Concordia Publishing House. Perhaps your family can read the Creation Story from a special bible.



Fire/ Property Evacuation Drills

We are required by the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) to conduct weekly fire/ property evacuation drills for the first four weeks of school. Teachers will prepare the children for these drills by walking them through the process and explaining that the alarm will be loud. State licensing requires us to practice these drills so that every child has the opportunity to experience a scheduled drill at least twice in the first month of school. We never want children to be afraid, so we use the same consistent message. The language we use is: "We are practicing so we know what to do in an emergency." Practicing drills will assist the children to feel more comfortable and know what to do. Upcoming drills are scheduled for:

Thursday, August 13 at 9:30 am
Thursday, August 27 at 9:30 am



Friday, August 21 at 9:30 am
Friday, September 4 at 9:30 am



Community Events!

We are excited to share some dates for coming together as a community! Our plans for this school year include:

Thursday, October 8, during our school day, **Whole School Field Trip** - location to be announced!

Thursday, October 29 & Friday, October 30 at 9:15 am - **Costume Parades and Pasties for Parents Event!**

Friday, December 11, at 9:15 am - **KinderPrep Christmas Program and Reception!**

Monday, December 14 & Tuesday, December 15, during our school day - **Christmas Programs and Receptions for the Swallowtails Class, Monarchs Class, Intermediate Multi-Age Class, and Older Multi-Age Class!**

Friday, March 5, in the evening - **Family Literacy Night!**

Friday, May 7, at 9:15 am - **KinderPrep Spring Program and Reception!**

Monday, May 10 & Tuesday, May 11, during our school day - **Spring Programs and Receptions for the Swallowtails Class, Monarchs Class, Intermediate Multi-Age Class, and Older Multi-Age Class!**

Friday, May 14 from 10:00 am--12:00 noon - **End of the Year Family Picnic at the Park, Location to be Announced**

Volunteers in the Classrooms

In keeping with our goals of relationship building and working in partnership with families, we value family volunteers in our classrooms. Once children have settled in, routines have been established, and classroom systems are operating smoothly, your child's teachers will reach out to you with some details and an invitation for join them, if you'd like to.

Meet Our Staff

Each month we will feature members of our staff, so you can get to know us better!
For August, we'll introduce you to our office staff, Lori and Jane.

Lori Erven

I am honored and humbled to serve as the Director of St. Luke Preschool, where each day is filled with discovery, wonder, and exciting new adventures!

I've been in the field of early childhood education for over 40 years and earned my BA and my MA degrees in Elementary Education from the University of New Mexico. I began my career teaching with Albuquerque Public Schools. I then took several wonderful years to be a stay-at-home mom with my daughters. I first came to St. Luke Preschool as a parent, when my youngest daughter began preschool here over 20 years ago! My years at St. Luke have included teaching in the classroom, as well as the administrator's role. I am blessed to continually learn and grow alongside my stellar coworkers.

When I'm not at the preschool, I enjoy reading, walking with my dog, biking and hiking with my husband, and spending time with my daughters and my grandson (who also attended St. Luke Preschool). I am grateful to God for the blessings given each new day. "Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you." Psalm 143:8

Jane Clinger

I feel so fortunate to work in this amazing school and am grateful to see the wonder of God through the eyes of these precious little ones. I have been the Office Administrator at the preschool for 14 of the last 17 years. I have a degree in marketing from Texas A&M University - Gig' Em Aggies! At A&M I met my wonderful husband, and the AF brought us to ABQ in 2000 - we have lived here since. We have 5 grown children, 6 grandchildren and one grandchild on the way.

I love my job and have come full circle now that one of my grandchildren is a St. Luke student! God's blessings have overflowed beyond measure. In my free time, I enjoy houses, hiking, traveling, and spending time with my family. I am a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, and my faith defines my life. My favorite verse for this year is from Psalm 73:26, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."



We are pleased to be using the Brightwheel App for early learning centers again this year! While Brightwheel offers many features, we mostly utilize these:

1. Billing and Tuition for Private Pay Families – parents have access to their own portals and private pay families have the option to make payments online.
2. Messaging – teachers can engage with parents and send information, along with photos for each individual child, as well as the whole class. Families and teachers can message one another, as needed.

While Brightwheel is a wonderful tool, it is important to keep in mind the number one responsibility of the teachers is the supervision and care of your child. As such, the teachers will respond to Brightwheel messages, as soon as they are able.

Please be sure to set up the Brightwheel App on your mobile device. If you have any questions about using Brightwheel, please contact Jane in the office.